

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action.

1-14. (CANCELLED).

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of ACL graft ligament fixation comprising the steps of:

forming a passing pin tunnel in a femur, said passing pin tunnel having a longitudinal axis and exiting a superior wall of the femur;

forming a femoral tunnel along said longitudinal axis, said femoral tunnel having a larger diameter than said passing pin tunnel and terminating in said femur;

forming a transverse tunnel intersecting the femoral tunnel, said transverse tunnel terminating within said femur;

locating a graft loop in the femoral tunnel in such a manner that an open face of the loop faces an intersection where the femoral tunnel intersects the transverse tunnel, and wherein said locating comprises pulling on sutures holding said graft loop to locate said graft loop, and said pulling on sutures comprises pulling on said sutures through said passing pin tunnel;

forming ~~an enclosed~~ a recess in an opposite wall of the femoral tunnel; and
passing ~~at least a part of~~ a head section of a transverse suspension device through the graft loop via the transverse tunnel such that said head section completely advances beneath said graft loop and until said head contacts the opposite wall of the femoral tunnel and urging said graft loop against said opposite wall as at least a part of said head is embedded in said ~~enclosed~~ recess, and wherein a portion of said graft loop is compressed forward and outward between said opposite wall and an abutment surface of the transverse suspension device, wherein the abutment surface comprises an annular flange having a wider diameter than said head section.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 15, wherein after location of the graft loop in the femoral tunnel, a guide wire is advanced thereunder from the transverse tunnel.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 16, wherein the suspension device is passed along the guide wire after the guide wire is advanced under the graft loop.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 15, wherein the head of the device is advanced as far as a distal head of the recess formed in the opposite wall of the femoral tunnel.

19-20. (CANCELLED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of ACL graft ligament fixation comprising the steps of:

inserting a transverse suspension device comprising a proximal body section defining a longitudinal axis, a head section extending along said longitudinal axis and protruding distally from the body section, said head section having a smaller diameter than that of said body section, a nose section distal to and distinct from said head section and having a reduced diameter as compared to said head section, said nose section extending along said longitudinal axis, and an annular abutment surface distinct from said head section and disposed between said head section and said body section wherein said abutment surface comprises an annular flange and is substantially at an angle to said longitudinal axis;

forming a femoral tunnel;

forming a transverse tunnel intersecting the femoral tunnel;

locating a graft loop in the femoral tunnel in such a manner that an open face of the loop faces an intersection where the femoral tunnel intersects the transverse tunnel;
and

passing at least a part of said nose section and said head section of said transverse suspension device through the graft loop via the transverse tunnel such that said head section completely advances beneath said graft loop and urging the graft loop against an opposite wall of the femoral tunnel until said nose section is embedded in ~~an enclosed~~ a recess formed in the opposite wall of the femoral tunnel wherein a portion of said graft loop is compressed forward and outward between said ~~abutment surface~~ annular flange and said opposite wall and such that said ligament is supported by said head section.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 16, wherein said guidewire is advanced under observation with a viewing device.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 22 wherein said viewing device is an arthroscope.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 21 wherein said nose section is frustoconical shaped.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 21 wherein said transverse suspension device is cannulated.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 21 wherein the recess is formed with a dilator tool.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 21 wherein said transverse tunnel is drilled to intersect and not cross said femoral tunnel.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 21 wherein said body section comprises external threads.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of ACL graft ligament fixation comprising the steps of:

- inserting a transverse suspension device comprising a threaded tubular body section defining a longitudinal axis, a frustoconical head section extending along said longitudinal axis and protruding distally from the body section, said head section having a smaller diameter than that of said body section, and an annular abutment surface disposed between said head section and said body section wherein said abutment surface comprises an annular flange is substantially at an angle to said longitudinal axis;
- forming a femoral tunnel;
- forming a transverse tunnel intersecting the femoral tunnel but not extending beyond said femoral tunnel such that said femoral tunnel comprises an opposite wall;
- forming ~~an enclosed~~ a recess in said opposite wall with a dilator tool;
- locating a graft loop in the femoral tunnel in such a manner that an open face of the loop faces an intersection where the femoral tunnel intersects the transverse tunnel;
- passing ~~at least a part of~~ a head section of a transverse suspension device through the graft loop via the transverse tunnel such that said head section completely advances beneath said graft loop and urging the graft loop against the opposite wall until at least a part of said head section is embedded in said ~~enclosed~~ recess and wherein a portion of said graft loop is compressed forward and outward between said ~~abutment surface~~ annular flange and said opposite wall, and wherein said passing is performed subsequent to said locating.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 21, wherein said angle is about 90 degrees.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 21, wherein said head section has a substantially constant diameter.

32. (CANCELLED)